School of Education celebrates 75 years of Teacher Education at the College of Charleston

75 Years of Teacher Education

The School of Education celebrated 75 years of Teacher Education at the College of Charleston with a birthday party held on October 7th. The celebration, held in the Alumni Atrium in the Beatty Center of the School of Business and Economics, allowed guests to mix and mingle while learning about the School of Education’s history and future endeavors.

Over two hundred attendees enjoyed birthday cake, champagne and a jazz quartet featuring School of the Arts students and alumni. Dr. Edward J. Lawton, primary author of the School of Education’s history book and distinguished professor emeritus, signed complimentary copies of the history book which traces teacher education at the College of Charleston since its beginnings in 1930 and provides information about those who led the way in the School of Education. Along with the book signing station, a memorabilia station featured a slide show and presentation of various artifacts which highlighted teacher education through the decades.

While commemorating the past, the celebration also featured exciting news about the new School of Education facilities, scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2006. Sanders Tate, from the architectural firm Watson Tate Savory, was present to answer questions about the new facilities which will be located at 86 Wentworth Street.

Overall, the event provided a time to reflect on Teacher Education and celebrate its future at the College of Charleston. Dean Frances Welch said, “This is an exciting time for us in the School of Education. Not only are we celebrating 75 years of growth and improvement in the education of teachers, we are also moving to new and renovated facilities that will provide a new home for teacher education at the College of Charleston.”

Teacher Education through the years

From the early 1900s until today, teachers have been educated and trained in Charleston. In 1927, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools ruled teachers in accredited schools must have a prescribed amount of professional training. The first courses in teacher education at the College of Charleston were offered in 1927, but it was not until 1930 that education coursework credit was accepted for a bachelor’s degree from the College. From that day forward, teacher education at the College of Charleston continued to grow and prosper.

Before the College of Charleston began educating teachers, they were trained in “normal” schools which were typically schools not associated with a college. The first “normal” school to educate teachers in the state of South Carolina was Memminger Normal School, now Memminger Elementary School in downtown Charleston. Memminger Normal School was named for Colonel Christopher Gustavus

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Message from the Dean

What an exciting time to be in the School of Education! Our Fall Semester 2005 newsletter is full of information about all the wonderful happenings in our School.

On October 7, 2005, we had the groundbreaking for our new facilities at 86 Wentworth St. We proudly announced that Sara and Chuck Davis had made a generous bequest of two million dollars in memory of their son, Jeremy Warren Vann, and further announced the naming of the Jeremy Warren Vann Teacher Education Center. Chuck Davis has joined our School of Education Advisory Board and is chairing our Foundation Committee. Dr. Sara Davis, who is an associate professor in the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle Level Education, has agreed to co-chair with Chuck the fundraising associated with our new facilities. We sincerely appreciate the generosity of time and monetary resources donated by Chuck and Sara.

Following the groundbreaking, we celebrated the 75th birthday of teacher education at the College of Charleston in the Beatty Center Alumni Atrium. I would like to especially thank our birthday party planning committee who helped to make this a very special event (Carolyn Anderson ’70, Emily Arrington ’06, Solomon Briebart ’36, Lynda Davis ’66, Chandra Fripp Vick ’74, Trisha Gustafson ’72, Kate Howard Arnold ’00, Karen Jones ’74, Cathy Mahon ’80, Bridgette Marques ’95, Kitty McIntosh, Pam McKinney ’74, Tony Meyer ’49, Ellen Mintz ’91, Teresa New ’96, Kimberly Parker ’05, Debby Price ’07, Ann Schwartz ’06, Naughty Smoak ’55, Maurice Thompson ’59, Nancy Waller).

On October 28, 2005, we dedicated our School of Education Charles and Andrea Volpe Center for Teaching and Learning. At that time, we also celebrated the very generous bequest of three million dollars from Chuck and Andi Volpe. I have tried to think of meaningful ways to show my appreciation for the significant bequest from Andi and Chuck and sincerely hope that they know how grateful we are for their generosity.

I hope you will enjoy reading about these exciting events in the newsletter. Also, please note the number of outstanding new faculty and staff who have joined us. Several of these faculty and staff members are working with our new Center for Partnerships to Improve Education. Our first partnership is with Burke High and Middle Schools where we are making good progress. We are also pleased the partnership should result in improved education for the students at Burke as well as for our teacher education candidates.

The honor society for teacher education is Kappa Delta Pi. On Sunday, October 9, 2005, we initiated 56 new members. One of those new members is a new faculty member with us, Dr. Carla Monroe. Carla has agreed to work with Dr. Marty Nabors who is the current counselor for our Tau Tau Chapter. Vice President Jaclyn Thompson will represent us at the international conference in Orlando this November.

Yes, these are indeed exciting times in the School of Education. You will recall that our theme for the School of Education is “Making the Teaching and Learning Connection.” I hope you will stay connected to us by visiting us in person and at our SOE website, www.cofc.edu/SchoolofEducation.

School of Education dedicates the Charles and Andrea Volpe Center for Teaching and Learning

On October 28, 2005, the School of Education held a dedication ceremony for the Charles and Andrea Volpe Center for Teaching and Learning. The event also celebrated the generous 3 million dollar bequest made by Chuck and Andi Volpe. Following the dedication ceremony, a reception was held in the Volpe’s honor.

The Volpe Center has state-of-the-art facilities for the faculty and teacher education candidates and is located on the second floor of the Thaddeus Street Education Center. The Volpe’s have supported the College of Charleston through the years and Andi Volpe currently serves on the School of Education Advisory Board.

More information about the Volpe’s generous bequest will be included in the Spring 2006 newsletter.
On October 7th at 4:30 p.m., the School of Education hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for its new facilities which will be located at 86 Wentworth Street. Undergraduate and graduate teacher education faculty and staff will occupy the 56,000 square feet facilities, expected to be completed by the summer of 2006.

Prior to the ceremony, thirty members of the Burke High School marching band performed for guests in the Beatty Business Center Atrium. Dean Frances Welch served as the mistress of ceremonies and recognized the state, county and city representatives who attended the ceremony as well as the donors whose generosity made the new facility a reality. Welch says, “The School of Education Building will be the product of an amazing collaboration of planning, cooperation, and resources based on the result of a successful public-private partnership. On the private side, we thank Sara and Chuck Davis and The Albert Sottile Foundation and other donors whose generosity will help make our dream a reality.”

College of Charleston President Lee Higdon, Board of Trustee Chairman Bobby Marlowe, and Teaching Fellows President Mora Pressley also spoke at the ceremony. Pressley, who will graduate from the College of Charleston in 2007, said, “I am so pleased that I and all future teachers educated at the College of Charleston can take advantage of the new space. Additionally, there will be space in the new facilities for our alumni to gather.”

During the ceremony, Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Davis joined Welch and Higdon on stage to honor their son, Jeremy Warren Vann, a College of Charleston alumnus and aspiring teacher who died seven years ago in a tragic automobile accident. The Davis’ unveiled a portrait of Vann which will hang in the Jeremy Warren Van Teacher Education Center in the new School of Education facilities.

After College of Charleston student Katie Greenshaw sang the alma mater, Welch, Higdon, Pressley, and Chuck and Sara Davis broke ground with gold shovels to commemorate this significant event.

School of Education breaks ground for new facilities

Memminger who was the most active participant in the start of normal schools in South Carolina and a leader in establishing Charleston’s public school system in the 1850s.

Memminger Normal School opened in 1857 as an all-girls school with all white students and remained a high school for girls until 1950 when it became an elementary school. The College of Charleston School of Education currently has a partnership with Memminger Elementary School. The purpose of this partnership is to maximize the resources of those involved and work together to improve achievement of Memminger Elementary School students and novice teachers enrolled in the College of Charleston teacher education program.

Avery Normal School opened in 1865 as a teacher education school for African Americans in the lowcountry. In the late 1970s a group of activists, which included many Averyites (Avery graduates), helped form the Avery Institute. Today, the school building is the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture at the College of Charleston. The mission of the Avery Research Center is to collect, preserve, and document the history of African Americans in Charleston and the South Carolina Lowcountry. Avery Research Center’s archives and museum contain some of the best resources in our area for students and others who are interested in researching African-American history.

These three schools, with rich and diverse histories in Charleston, were and continue to be leaders in the education of teachers.
Dr. Andrew Lewis: US Delegate and Associate Professor

In the 24 years Dr. Andrew Lewis, Associate Professor of Physical Education and Health, has been at the College of Charleston, he has been a part of many exciting projects, programs and committees. Do you remember when student registrations were being done by hand with punch cards in Galliard Auditorium? Some of us may not, but Dr. Lewis does. He describes that experience as one of his most memorable. Other memorable times include attending graduation where all seniors were seated on the Cistern (not an extended Cistern stage), teaching in the new Stern Center pool, and directing the renovation of the Silcox Physical Education and Health Center.

When Lewis became Chair for the Department of Physical Education and Health in 1991, he made history by becoming the first African American to serve as a Department Chair at the College of Charleston - a memorable moment indeed!

Last summer, Lewis was selected as one of only fifteen members from the US to visit China as part of a US Delegation on Active Lifestyles and Fitness. The trip was organized by the People To People Ambassador Program which provides foreign educational travel experiences for professionals all over the world. The program aims to promote better understanding, cooperation and mutual respect between people of different cultures.

Lewis represented the College of Charleston through meetings, seminars, site visits and cultural activities that he shared with other participants of similar professions. “Given today’s global and interdisciplinary community, it is important that professionals converse about the importance of their disciplines,” Lewis states. “I had the unique opportunity to establish connections with international colleagues that has increased my shared knowledge and broadened my perspectives,” he says.

During the eleven-day program Lewis, visited the China Institute of Sport Science, Beijing Sports University, Changjiao Village and Primary School, Guiyang Nanmingqu Hospital, Powerland Fitness Center and The Shanghai Nutrition Society. Lewis was able to gain a better understanding of the common interests and challenges that he shares with professionals in China.

Before joining the College of Charleston family, Lewis grew up in Winter Haven, Florida. He received his B.S. degree in Physical Education from Albany State University and a M.S. from the University of Tennessee. He then made his way to the College of Charleston to teach physical education and aquatics at what was then a small college. He had “a desire to work in a program that focused on quality instruction for both upper and lower level courses.” After four years as an instructor, he decided to pursue a doctorate degree from The Ohio State University.

In addition to his position as Associate Professor, Lewis also serves as the School of Education’s Director of Professional Development in Education (EDPD). In this role he works with practitioners to “design quality, rigorous, graduate level professional development courses at various locations around the state which meet academic standards of the School of Education as well as address a particular agency initiative or need.”

When not teaching, playing racquetball, or relaxing with his family, Lewis can be found working with the Charleston County Schools and the School of Education’s Center for Partnerships to Improve Education (CPIE). The Center has three core teams, and Lewis is Chair of its Community Outreach’s team. The Center’s initial project will be a partnership with Burke School designed to assist and support with the improvement of student academic performance. Lewis currently lives in the West Ashley area with his wife of thirty one years, Josephine, and their small dog, Shadow.
Teach in China Program: A professional and personal experience

In the summer of 2005, twenty teacher and student volunteers from the College of Charleston School of Education were invited to the Republic of China to begin a new language program. The purpose of the 30-day trip was to teach Chinese students and teachers conversational English while leaving behind a part of American culture. Dr. Angela Crespo Cozart, Educational Foundations, Secondary, and Special Education Associate Professor, agreed to lead the trip knowing that this opportunity would be a great connection not only for the College, but for students in China who otherwise would not have been able to develop these kinds of professional relationships.

The program began in the rural town of Dazu; 43 elementary, middle and high school level Chinese students were enrolled in the optional enrichment language program and divided into separate classes. After ten days with the students and a graduation ceremony in their honor, the group of volunteers made their way to the city of Chongqing for another ten-day program. This time their students were multi-level Chinese teachers of English from across the region. In both programs, the College of Charleston volunteers were evenly dispersed between the groups with a certified teacher in each class. Lesson plans were constructed beforehand and the program quickly began to unfold. "Our students were eager to learn, our students were motivated!" exclaimed Dr. Cozart when asked to describe the students in her classrooms. The classes met five days a week, seven hours a day. The lessons were primarily conversational but led to other subjects as the days went on. "It seemed that the most valuable aspect of the program for (the Chinese students) was being able to talk to Americans, learning both the language and the culture first-hand," explained Dr. Susan Kattwinkel, School of Performance Art Associate Professor, "they wanted to talk about everyday life in America and find out about us personally."

The teachers will never forget the experiences they shared in China. Dr. Jeff Wragg, School of Science and Mathematics Senior Instructor in Physics, felt he gained friends from the program, "Now my image of China contains individual people I know and call friend. I am also a better teacher for it. I learned more than I taught." Kattwinkel had a similar experience. As a teacher, she says her best day was when her high school students wrote essays about what they wanted to do with their lives, "Helping them to express their dreams in English was an honor and I was impressed with the altruistic nature of most of their aspirations," she said.

This was the first time a “Teach in China” program was enacted by the College of Charleston. Dr. Cozart feels that the College is in a global society and there is much to be gained from the program. “We have to prepare our students to be ready to teach all children, not just those who share their own culture and language,” she explains. “Those who visited China came back with a better understanding of the culture and can share their knowledge with peers, friends and students.”

Hopefully next year more College of Charleston students, faculty, and staff will get to participate; as Dr. Wragg described the program, “a life-altering experience, for you and the people you meet there.”
Ellen Mintz: Alumna and Teacher Coach

Ellen Mintz, a teacher coach at Stiles Point Elementary School, has had a meaningful and diverse career path since graduating from the College of Charleston in 1988. Along with her position at Stiles Point Elementary School, Mintz stays connected with the College of Charleston in her role as chair of the School of Education’s Advisory Board.

Mintz entered the College of Charleston as a graduate student after receiving her Bachelor of Arts in secondary education from the University of Miami. Regarding her experiences in the School of Education, Mintz says, “What I remember most is the apprehension I felt entering the program as an adult with no teaching experience. Those fears were quickly dispelled, and I found the faculty provided all that I needed to be successful.” Mintz especially enjoyed taking language arts courses with Dr. Mary Blake-Jones because of her high expectations and strong encouragement.

Upon receiving her Masters in Elementary Education in 1988, Mintz began her teaching career at Orange Grove Elementary School as a fifth grade teacher. During her twelve years at Orange Grove Elementary School, Mintz achieved National Board Certification as a Middle Childhood Generalist. She went on to serve as a science resource teacher for Charleston County students.

In her current position as a teacher coach, Mintz helps teachers set goals for their students based on Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing and Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) scores. Mintz says, “I meet with grade level teams to analyze student work and develop common assessments. I also work in classrooms to model lessons and provide feedback and support to teachers.” Mintz also provides school-based professional development for the faculty when specific needs are identified. In regards to professional development, Mintz says, “I would love to see release time for professional development built into the school schedule in a way that makes it easier for teachers to be there without sacrificing instructional time.”

As chair of the School of Education Advisory Board, Mintz helps develop the agenda and facilitate meetings. Mintz says, “This is a very exciting time to serve in this capacity since interest in the School of Education is at a very high level with the building of the new School of Education facilities.” Mintz also served on the planning committee for the 75th birthday celebration of teacher education at the College of Charleston held on October 7, 2005. In her free time, Mintz enjoys reading, cooking, and exercising.

Early Childhood Development Center helps with Katrina Relief Fund

The children and staff at the N.E. Miles Early Childhood Center (ECDC) raised money and accepted donations to benefit the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The four- and five-year-old classrooms sparked fundraising efforts when they made and sold pizza for 25 cent donations and raised the first $40 towards the effort.

ECDC served as a drop-off location for children’s books and classroom supplies which were donated to the Mississippi Early Childhood Association to benefit Gulf Coast early childhood programs devastated by Hurricane Katrina.
School of Education welcomes new faculty and staff members

Karen Abernathy

Karen Abernathy joins the School of Education as an administrative assistant for the Foundations Secondary and Special Education Department (EDFS). Most recently Karen spent two years as the Student Data Clerk at Pepperhill Elementary School in North Charleston.

Abernathy is a true Charlestonian. She was born in Lincolnville, SC and has spent her entire life in the Charleston area. She currently lives with her husband, Gregory, son, Asher, and their African Grey parrot, Puna. Abernathy sings on the Praise & Worship Team at her church and enjoys working out at her home gym. She loves reading mini mysteries, autobiographies, and historic accounts aloud to her family.

Abernathy is looking forward to working with everyone in the School of Education. “I haven’t been here a very long time, but it has been a wonderful experience so far,” she said.

Susan Beattie, Ph.D.

Former Director of Admissions at the Providence Day School in Charlotte, North Carolina, Dr. Susan Beattie’s responsibilities at the College of Charleston are split between Academic Computing and the School of Education. As assistant professor, she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in technology education for teachers. Beattie’s expertise lies in the identification of instructional strategies to match the needs of students’ individual learning profiles. Her professional experiences have primarily been in the areas of learning disabilities, speech pathology, and educational administration.

Beattie received her B.S. and M.S. at the State University College at Buffalo, NY, and a Ph.D. from the University of Florida. Also, she served as the Director of Curriculum for Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, worked at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte as an adjunct professor, and served as director for the first Scottish Rite Language-Learning Clinic in Charlotte.

This newcomer to South Carolina enjoys reading, traveling, sampling Charleston cuisine, relaxing at the beach and spending time with her son.

Rhonda Corley

Rhonda Corley joins us as visiting assistant professor from Saluda, North Carolina, where she has consulted with numerous districts to develop grant proposals, conduct program evaluations and develop their plans for the future.

Corley has worked in teaching and administration in South Carolina for 32 years. Most recently, she served as Director of Early Childhood Education in the Greenville County School District; she coordinated district-wide curriculum programs for 5,000 five year olds in 54 elementary schools and administered teacher training in numerous Child and Family Learning Centers. In 2004 she was awarded the Elizabeth Scipio Award for her significant involvement on the Success by Six Board and with Greenville County First Steps. Corley is also an Honorary Life Member of the SC Early Childhood Association.

Corley is teaching early childhood education courses in instruction, curriculum and assessment, and a curriculum and development graduate course. When not teaching, she enjoys gardening, playing golf, reading, and traveling to see her 26 year old daughter and “grand puppy.”
Meredith Harris

Originally from Virginia, Meredith Harris spent the last two years teaching seventh grade English language arts and geography at C.E. Williams Middle School. Harris is a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle Level Education. Harris previously taught at the Munich International School in Bavaria, Germany, as a first grade teacher and in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland, at the Center for European Studies and Architecture. She hopes that her experiences overseas will foster an environment where her students will become “world citizens.”

When not in the classroom or pursuing her dream of one day becoming an archeologist, Harris keeps busy hiking, biking, skiing and leading a Bible study for college students.

Rénard Harris, Ph.D.

We are proud to welcome Dr. Rénard Harris to the College of Charleston School of Education in his first year as an assistant professor in the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary, and Middle Level Education. Harris recently spent time in Alcoa, Tennessee, teaching at the middle school level. He specializes in teacher education, multicultural education in the classroom and Blues music/culture as it relates to students in the classroom. Harris hopes to bring creativity to the College as well as a passion for teaching and a determination to reach marginalized students.

Harris has been featured in the Tennessee Association of Middle School Journals and the Academic Exchange Extra. Most recently he was published in The Social Studies Journal for his work on “Middle Schoolers and the Blues.” Harris believes that teachers who teach with sincerity and passion encourage students to “desire more education, empowerment, and regardless of the situation, to always see a glass as being half full and not half empty.”

Harris is originally from Moss Point, MS and currently lives in Charleston with his dog, Sukey.

Faye Hicks-Townes, Ph.D.

Dr. Faye Hicks-Townes, visiting associate professor, comes to the College of Charleston from Lufkin, Texas, where she was recently honored with the Department of Secondary Education and Educational Leadership Teaching Excellence Award at Stephen F. Austin State University. She taught in Texas for seven years and has a variety of publications such as Life at the Margins: Literacy, Language and Technology in Everyday Life.

Hicks-Townes specializes in English education, social and historical foundations of education, and qualitative research. This year she will be teaching English 101, human growth and development, as well as working with the Center for Partnerships to Improve Education at Burke Middle and High School. Hicks-Townes feels that educators are here to serve the students; to do that most effectively she feels they must be a part of the learning community. “Positive interaction with learners, peers, parents and community people is an important part of what we do,” she says.
Carla Monroe, Ph.D.

Dr. Carla Monroe joins the School of Education as an assistant professor in the Department of Foundations, Secondary and Special Education. Monroe has been a teacher for eight years. She moved to Charleston after teaching at Wheelock College from 2004 to 2005 and completing graduate work at Emory University from 1997 to 2004.

Monroe’s areas of expertise are in teacher education, multicultural education and comparative education. In regards to her new position, Monroe says, “I am looking forward to working with College of Charleston students in creative and multifaceted ways that deepen their understanding of academic content, the multiplicity of students’ experiences, and the complexity of the teaching profession.” In addition to her teaching and research responsibilities, Monroe is working with the Center for Partnerships to Improve Education at Burke Middle and High School.

In her free time, Monroe enjoys cooking, reading, music and travel. She is currently studying Hindi and enjoys learning about the different states, people and cultures of India.

Leah Mullaney

Leah Mullaney, School of Education alumna, joins the School of Education as an administrative assistant with the Department Chair of Elementary, Early Childhood and Middle Level Education. In her position, Mullaney assists with the budget, prepare and maintain contracts, and organize awards for the faculty and students. She will also maintain office inventory and educational supplies and attend monthly meetings to review and plan the annual report. In regards to what she hopes to bring to the School of Education, Mullaney says, “expertise in my position and dedication to the department, as well as new and innovative ideas.”

Mullaney is originally from Louisville, Kentucky and moved to Charleston in 1985. She is the mother of a fourteen-year-old daughter, Lauren, and an eleven-year-old son, Luke. In her free time, Mullaney enjoys whitewater rafting, horseback riding and playing the piano.

Tom Murray, Ph.D.

Dr. Tom Murray recently moved to Charleston after spending 22 years in Clearwater, Florida. In Clearwater, Murray taught social studies at Pinellas County’s first stand-alone alternative school, Bayside High School, where his students voted him Teacher of the Year for 2005.

Murray is teaching a course in methods of social studies and English, a course in human development, as well as working with the Center for Partnerships currently at Burke Middle and High Schools. Murray follows a constructivist approach to education and believes in collaborative and cooperative learning.

Murray has been married to his wife Cathy for twenty-one years and has three step-children and two grandchildren. Murray also serves on the Advisory Board of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund where he attends quarterly meetings in Washington, DC and is creating a foundation of teachers and Vietnam Veterans to support an orphanage in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam as well as build a school in Dong Ha, Vietnam.

Mary Provost, Ph.D.

Dr. Mary Provost joins the School of Education’s Department of Foundations, Secondary and Special Education as an assistant professor with primary expertise in instructional programming for students with learning and mental disabilities. Originally from Monterey, California, Provost has been teaching for ten years and has worked in residential programs serving individuals with disabilities for over fifteen years.

While at the College of Charleston, Provost hopes to facilitate membership in the Council for Learning Disabilities. She says, “I believe that my experience in the public school system in Florida will translate into improved practice of the students we serve at the College of Charleston. My ultimate mission is improving the lives of students and adults with disabilities.” Provost currently serves as President of the Council for Learning Disabilities.

Provost enjoys reading, traveling and taking care of her animals. Provost currently resides with her 21-year-old daughter, Christina.
Tim Scheet, Ph.D

Dr. Tim Scheet, a visiting assistant professor, comes to the College of Charleston from the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) where he spent the past three years as an assistant professor and Director of the Laboratory for Exercise Biochemistry. While at USM, Scheet was named the College of Health’s Emerging Scholar and received the A.K. and E.G. Lucas Endowment for Faculty Excellence Award.

Scheet teaches exercise physiology and concepts in fitness assessment and exercise.

Emily Skinner

Emily Skinner joins the Department of Elementary, Early Childhood, and Middle Level Education from Teachers College of Columbia University. Skinner has been engaged in literacy teaching and teacher training for the past 10 years as a classroom teacher, university instructor, and staff developer. Skinner is originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Regarding her teaching philosophy, Skinner says, “I model the practices that I present as best practice for teaching children and adolescents. I teach with a socio-cultural framework in mind striving to both validate and extend students’ literacy and teaching practices.” Skinner will be teaching literacy courses for the School of Education. Her expertise lies in teaching students about drawing upon mentor texts in their writing. Skinner enjoys swimming, rollerblading, reading, writing and spending time with friends and family. She has also accomplished the great feat of running the Chicago marathon.

William Veal, Ph.D.

Dr. William Veal joins the School of Education’s Department of Elementary, Early Childhood and Middle Level Education as an assistant professor with primary expertise in science education. Veal teaches elementary and middle school science methods and serves as a clinical practice intern supervisor. He has been teaching at the college level for eight years and spent four years as a high school science teacher.

Veal is a member of various professional associations including the American Association of Teaching and Curriculum where he was elected the President for 2004-05.

Born in Venezuela and raised in Southern California. He has been vacationing in South Carolina for ten years. While at the College of Charleston, he hopes to bring a strong science perspective. He says, “I enjoy teaching and learning and hope to pass along that excitement to the students.”

Bridging the achievement gap in secondary schools

Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honors Society at the College of Charleston, in conjunction with the School of Education, the School of Humanities and Social Studies, and the Avery Center, are pleased to sponsor an upcoming spring conference on bridging the achievement gap in P-12 schools. The conference will be held on January 27, 2006.

This interactive program will feature prominent keynote speakers such as Dr. Nancy Streim, Associate Dean for Educational Practice at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School, as well as breakout panel discussions between local educators and community leaders.

For more information, contact Dr. Terry Bowers at BowersT@cofc.edu or Dr. Catherine Thomas at ThomasC@cofc.edu.
Program Directors’ News

M.A.T. in Special Education

Eleven full-time students began their first year of study in the Special Education M.A.T. program this fall. These students represent the second group to begin our “revised” curriculum (i.e., increased field work, greater emphasis on effective pedagogy, a language course, and an emphasis on crisis management skills). The new program requires students to document and reflect on their progress towards becoming a competent special education teacher in the context of a professional portfolio.

Our graduates continue to perform well in public school special education programs. Mr. Chad Counts was recently honored as “Rookie Teacher of the Year” at Beech Hill Elementary School. In September of 2005, Anthony Dixon, a teacher of students with learning disabilities at St. Stephen Elementary School, was awarded the American Star of Teaching Award as the representative from South Carolina.

Potential M.A.T. students should contact the Director of the program, Dr. Michael Skinner (843-953-8044), for more information.

M.Ed. Program in Special Education

Specialized coursework is being offered in the spring and summer for licensed educators with the prerequisites! All of our characteristics courses required for add on licensure in emotional disabilities, learning disabilities and mental disabilities and additional courses that clearly support current Positive Behavior Support (PBS), inclusion and assessment initiatives impacting area schools will be taught in 2006. We welcome qualified individuals to apply as non degree students and discover more about autism, informal individualized assessment and functional behavioral assessment and PBS. New faculty member Dr. Mary Provost will join Dr. Denis Keyes in offering coursework meeting licensure requirements in severe and profound disabilities. Contact Dr. Bonnie McCarty at 843-953-8048 for more information.

Congratulations to M.Ed. candidates Katherine Devaney and Wendy Skaggs! Both were elected Teacher of the Year for their schools. We also welcome Mr. Anthony Musila, an educator from Kenya, who has just begun his special education program of study.

The M.Ed. Program in Science and Mathematics for Teachers

We would like to congratulate the students who have completed their M.Ed. in Science and Math for Teachers in the spring and summer of 2005: Shelly Aksomitas, Sandi Nichols, Kevin Rhoads, Barnard English, T. Ann Gandy, Cheryl Harris, Stephanie Major, Meike McDonald and Michael Newman.

The Science and Mathematics for Teachers program is offering an exciting line up of courses for the Spring of 2006:
- EDFS 632: Learning, Cognition, and Motivation
- EDFS 635: Educational Research
- EDFS 703: Curriculum, Policy and Systems in Science & Mathematics
- SMFT 518 Applications in Calculus for Teachers
- SMFT 538: Topics in Zoology
- SMFT 645: Physics of Force and Motion

Visit our web site http://www.cofc.edu/%7Emedm/ to find out more about these courses. Look for news on our first on-line course. We welcome you to join us for fun and learning in the Spring of 2006!

Laura Griffin Memorial 5K Run/Walk

Ten years ago the College of Charleston students, faculty and staff were devastated by the tragic and unexpected death of Laura Griffin, the Director of the Office of Substance Abuse and Prevention. While jogging on the Battery, she was struck by a hit and run driver and died five days later. Ironically, the driver of the vehicle was under the influence, the very cause Griffin was fighting against.

As a legacy to Laura Griffin’s work in the Charleston community and across the state, the Laura Griffin Memorial 5k Run/Walk was initiated.

We invite you to be a part of the tenth Griffin Run on January 14, 2006. The proceeds raised will fund student scholarships and a fellowship in her name in order to commemorate her life’s work in substance abuse prevention.

For more information, please contact Dr. Deborah Miller at 843-953-8248 or by email at millerd@cofc.edu.
A journey through the “School of Rock”

South Carolina has a teacher at sea, aboard the JOIDES Resolution, the international drilling vessel that has explored the world’s oceans, drilling deep into the history of the earth. Mary Whaley, a Science Specialist at the Lowcountry Math and Science Regional Center in Summerville, SC, was selected to participate in this unique opportunity; a 3 week cruise designed specifically for teachers, called the School of Rock. The ship sailed October 31st from Victoria, British Columbia, and sails for thirteen days, with a final port call in Acalpulco.

Please encourage your friends, teachers and students to visit the expedition’s web site at http://www.joilearning.org/schoolofrock. You may also email Whaley directly at jrs_whaley@ship.iopd.tamu.edu.

When Whaley returns she will be designing several web-based resources for use in classrooms that will be posted on the Oceanica web site at http://oceanica.cofc.edu/. She will also offer a workshop for teachers.